

was taken to mean that he was a picket on duty and had gone to give the alarm that the northern soldiers were coming. Realizing they were a small company and in a hostile country, and that they might be killed by ambush any minute, they decided to take to the mountains. It turned out afterwards that the soldiers at the bridge was not a sentinel, but a deserter who was making his getaway to Buchannon.

The little army turned up Price Run and from there climbed Bucks Mountain. When they had reached the top of the mountain they ate a cold lunch and lay down to sleep without starting a fire. At daybreak they marched to the head of Dry Run and called at the home of Peter Beverage, a Union man and obtained food. Then they went to the home of William Beverage, a Confederate sympathiser. These two Beverages were brothers. At William Beverages they took a hive of honey and prepared for the noon day meal.

In the meantime, the Confederates were laying a plan to capture these Union soldiers. Captain J. C. Gay, holding a commission as captain under the confederacy, with authority to guard the border, summoned his forces and all Confederate soldiers home on furlough to his home. His command at Duncans Lane was made up of about half scouts and half regular soldiers home on furlough.

Godfrey and Adam Geiger of Stony Bottom were among the furlough soldiers to be called. They arrived at Gay's late the evening of the election. Next morning before daylight they were on the trail of the union soldiers. They arrived at William Beverages just in time to see the Union men in the act of taking the honey. The order to fire was given, and a volley let off. The result of which was a scattering of blue coats for shelter. Some went to the hillsides on either side of the hollow, some went down Duncans Lane and sheltered behind, Duncans house, and some to the knoll where the West Union school house now stands, and in this way gave battle.

Aaron Moore with the election returns ran up the hillside, and Godfrey Geiger says he would have been killed had he not been in citizens clothes, the rule being to shoot no one not in uniform.

At or about the first fire, Bernard Sharp, a son of William Sharp, fell mortally wounded. He was shot through both hips. Godfrey Geiger says he was carrying an army gun called a musketoon, which took paper cartridges. He took aim at Capt. Young who was hiding in a passage between the two parts of the Duncan house. Young afterwards said that the bullet cut away the clothes across his chest. The two little armies continued to fire at each other for about one and one half hours, neither side making a charge.

The Union soldiers gradually withdrew and made their way in little squads to Beverly taking with them the election returns.

When the Confederates found the Union had left the place, they came down Duncans Lane, carried Bernard Sharp to Henry Duncan's house. They sent for a doctor and did what they could for him but he died in a few hours. Other Union soldiers seriously wounded, were John Armstrong, Koffett Walton, John E. Adkinson, William Kennison, James Rodgers, and Koffett Sharp who was shot in the mouth. McClure under the shadow of Red Knob and concealed. They were taken care of by the McClure family. There was no one hit on the Confederate side.

After the battle the Confederates took a bee hive from Henry Duncans and carried it to William Beverages to replace the one taken by the Union men. There seems to have been no cause other than Duncan was for the Union and Beverage for the Confederacy.

These are a part of the names of Pocahontas men who took part in the battle of Duncans Lane.

Union -

Captain Samuel Young
Walton Allen
Lieut. - William Kennison

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John Armstrong
Privates - William Hannah
William Gay
George Cochran
Clark Dilley
Jeremiah Dilley
Sheldon Hannah
Clark Kellison
Newton Wanless
Moffett Wanless
James L. Rodgers
Aaron Moore
J. B. Moore
Henry Pugh
Aaron Kee
Columbus Silva

Confederates -

Captain - J. C. Gay
Privates - James Shannon
Jacob Simmons
Micheal Willerton
Godfrey Geiger
Adam Geiger
Azri White
Ban White
Charles Moore
Mathias Moore
James McLaughlin
George McLaughlin
Charles Jackson
Jacob Beverage
Harvey Lindsey
George Simmons
Hiram Dorman

No doubt this list is far from complete.

As a battle it does not rank high in the national issue to be decided other than it has a direct bearing on the election of Lincoln a second time.

I The Chronology of Events

1. Monday, November 4, 1864
State Troops arrived at Edray, Neff killed.
2. Tuesday November 5, 1864
Election held at Edray
3. Wednesday, November 6, 1864
Battle Duncans Lane

Henry Sharp
Bernard Sharp
John E. Adkinson
George McKeever
Moffett Rodgers
Hanson Moore
Moffett Sharp

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Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County
Ch. 4, section 4b-3

BATTLES OF MARLINS BOTTOM AND
HUNTERSVILLE

There use to be a covered bridge at Marlins Bottom (Marlinton) across the Greenbrier River. This was one of the bridges that came through the Civil War. Armies marched back and forth over this bridge and it figured in battles and retreats, but as it happened, never but once was an attempt made to destroy it an that time Mrs. Margaret Pooge Price was able to scatter the fire. That was during Averill's raid.

Years after the war, Andrew Price saw an old Confederate soldier, James Schisler of Greenbrier County examining the walls of the bridge. He said that he was looking for the loopholes he had used during the war.

So far as is known there was but one time that they had a battle near Marlins Bottom, though it was for months a fortified camp. The local people on either side did not understand what the controversy was about. All they knew was that there were soldiers stationed at the bridge and suddenly the bottom was full of blue coats, and that there was much firing and cavalry charging, that the confederates retreated and the Yankees went away.

Dr. George B. Moffett in telling about it afterwards said, " Well, I thought I had a fairly fleet horse, but with all those bullets flying around me, it seemed like Gizzard could not run at all."

The day that the Yankees and Confederates sowed the bottom with minnie balls was January 3, 1862..

The war broke out in 1861 and for a time Pocahontas was the objective of both armies. The strength of our militia (the 127 Regiment) was 650 at the beginning of the war yet before June 10th over 500 had entefed the Confederate army from Pocahontas. Robert E. Lee spent about two months here in the summer of 1861, between Huntersville and Linwood. For a time he used the Old Toll House at the end of the bridge at Marlins Bottom as his headquarters. (This building is still standing and was a few years ago made into a Tea Room by Mrs. Anna V. Hunter.)

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whereabouts in this county have been traced by letters he wrote while here..

At Huttonsville that winter the 25th Ohio was camped and with them was Major George Webster. General Milroy was in command of the forces and conceived a plan to let Major Webster have a chance to lead a small army into the Greenbrier Valley by way of Old Field Fork of Elk River to Marlins Bottom. It having been about two weeks since he had found the upper road blocked at Top Allegheny.

Webster entered upon his campaign with enthusiasm and he executed orders with neatness and dispatch. His little army was made up of 400 soldiers from his own regiment. They marched by the Elkwater fort and there he picked up 300 men from the Second West Virginia, and at Linwood he was joined by 38 of Brecken's Cavalrymen. He had loaded up his supply wagons and the army of 738 men moved south into the country of the enemy. He left Huttonsville December 31, 1861. On the evening of Jan. 2, 1862 he reached the place where the Crooked Fork of Elk turns to encircle the upper branch of the Gauley R. There they found the timber barricade cut into the narrow defile the fall before when Lee's army withdrew from the waters of the Elk to the waters of the Greenbrier. The trees were all cut for more than a mile. It was impossible to get his wagons through without losing too much time, so he left them there with fifty men to guard them. He took the path to the left on J.C. Gay's side of the blockade and he climbed the mountain early in the morning of Jan. 3, 1861.

When Webster got to the top of Elk Mountain on the Gay place he could look down the valley of the Greenbrier and see the tents of the company who had started to winter on the Ingen Patch, that part of Marlinton now occupied by the Union Tanning Co. Another company (Louisiana) was camped down the river on the west side where the old Price Place is.

Marlins Bottom was fortified against invasion from the north. The old road came up a little hill and dropped down to the bridge head. On top of this hill was a cannon. A part of the embankment can still be seen. On the east of the river on the bank was a trench of rifle fire extending the length of what is now the Tannery Row of tenement houses, with another cannon sited where the road topped the bank from the Marlin ford. These fortifications commanded the turnpike for a distance of about 400 yards, and made the road extremely dangerous as a passway.

Webster marched his command down Elk Mountain, through the loyal village of Edray,

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cross Drinnon's Ridge to the rebel settlement of Marlins Bottom. At the mouth of Stony Creek, he stopped long enough to send a squad of cavalry across the river, and they galloped down the east bank of the river and to the Huntersville road firing and acting outrageous to attract attention while Websters infantry came on down the west of the road. The cavalry coming in behind the Confederates caused them to stampede. Most of them made across the bridge to the west and fled into the woods. This engagement while a very noisy one resulted in no loss by death or wounding on either side. All they lost was their wind. It hardly halted the advance of the Federals. They crossed the bridge and advanced on to Huntersville driving before them some mounted Confederates. Huntersville had seen some big armies during the year of 1861, and when Lee left everything in charge of Loring, the Confederates made Huntersville their headquarters for all their activities in this part of the country.

Webster had left Captain Johnson with 50 men to guard the wagons at the barricade on Elks. Now he left Captain Williams with 50 men to guard Greenbrier Bridge.

When Webster arrived at the ford of Knopps Creek, near the home of Joe H. Buzzard, he found the Confederate cavalry on the south side of the creek in a level field, their line extending up and over a hilly spur that jutted out into the field. Webster sent a detachment up the mountain to turn the confederate's right while the rest of his command marched upon their front and firing became general on both sides. But the confederates seeing that the Federals were encircling them fell back and formed a new line of battle on Cummings Creek near Huntersville. The picket coming in from Marlins Bottom had reported the Federal forces to be about 5000 men.

Webster crossed the creek at Buzzards, topped the little spur and finding that the Confederates were in battle line on Cummings Creek sent two companies to his right through the woods, and the Brocken Cavalry to the left toward the creek. The rest of the troops advanced forward. After some firing the Confederates mounted their horses and retreated to the town. As the Federals entered Huntersville the Federals entered Huntersville on the west side the Confederates left by the east side. When Webster marched into Huntersville he found it deserted. Not a soul was living there. The courthouse, jail, stores and houses were all vacant. War had come too close to them, and the county seat and largest town was abandoned by its population. It remained in this condition for most of the war, and the soldiers used the Presbyterian church for a camp, and the houses were abused. Windows

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Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Charlinton, W. Va.

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were broken, doors left swinging. An old timer said that Huntersville which had been the scene of so much social life and gayety became one of the dreariest sights he had ever seen.

The people had abandoned the town because they had been told by the Confederates that if they were beaten the Federals would burn the town. When the town was captured Jan 3, 1862, large stores of army supplies were found stored there. There were 350 barrels of flour, 150,000 pounds of beef, 30,000 pounds of salt and large quantities of sugar, coffee, rice, bacon and clothing. Not being able to move anything fire was set to the stores and they were destroyed. The Confederates had fallen back to Monterey Va. The Federal loss was one man shot in the arm. The Confederates loss was one man killed and 7 wounded. The number of Confederates engaged was about 400 regular cavalrymen, and several hundred citizens recruited the day before, and two companies of infantry. In the meantime, at Camp Baldwin on the Allegheney, Gen. Edward Johnson was filled with apprehension. His scouts had reported the forward movement of the Federals to be about 5,000 men and Johnson thought they would circle around by Huntersville, Frost, and Crab Bottom and attack him from his base at Monterey.

But having destroyed the confederate supplies at Huntersville Webster turned and marched his men back to his wagons that night in the driving rain, having fought two engagements and marched something like 28 miles on foot. That was a big days work. It took one and one-half hours to drive the Confederates a mile, and he was in Huntersville two hours destroying supplies.

It was no wonder the local people did not understand the movements for even the Confederate commanders did not know what was happening to them. Websters return from Huntersville was what they had not counted on. They went on the basis that a big army was on the move, and expected it to march on to White Sulphur, Millboro, or Monterey. But the little Federal army marching so jaunty with their young commander had no notion of penetrating farther into the strongholds of the Confederates than any Union army had reached up to that time. Webster had swept the country clean as he went along, and had extricated his army with much neatness and dispatch.

On Jan. 6, 1862 they were back in their old headquarters at Huttonsville. It was as fine a campaign as ever a set of youngsters put over. Webster was there and back again

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with all his men and horses intact, having carried fire and sword into a hostile country, and marched 106 miles in six days.

He threw a scare into the Confederates that made their lines quiver from Huntersville to Winchester and from Top Allegheny to Staunton.

Scouts rode headlong in every direction carrying dispatches. They seem to have agreed on the strength of the Federal army as being 5,000 men instead of the 738 that it actually was.

From--1928 West Virginia Blue Book

by Andrew Price

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Pocahontas, County.

Chapter 4
section 4b-3

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Battle of Top Allegheny

Dec. 13, 1861.

The battle of Top Allegheny was fought in Pocahontas county on December 13, 1861 between the forces of the Union under General R. H. Milroy, and the forces of the confederates under General W. W. Loring. Col. Edward Johnson commanding.

The two companies had camped within sight of each other since July 13, 1861 the day the Federals had occupied Whites Top of Cheat. For five months they had watched each others camp fires rise. During this five months they had fought the battle at Travelers Repose on Oct. 3 and had also had another skermish at this same place on Oct. 31, 1861. Both times the Federals had been driven back to their camp on Cheat Mountain.

There had been other minor skermishes throughout the summer and Autumn. The Federal camp was known officially as Camp Cheat Mountain Summit. The Confederate camp was known as Camp Baldwin, in honor of a confederate soldier of that name. Between these two camps was Camp Bartow at Travelers Repose. The Confederates had made a winter camp on top Allegheny Montain by erecting log cabins.

As you go along the road now you can see piles of stone at regular intervals which represent the chimneys of the cabins. You can see the trenches and fortifications on Allegheny also at Cheat and Bartow. The top of Allegheny is a wind-swept pasture land, and the pike lies for some miles through this level table-land. In making the attack, the Federals had to climb up the side of the mountain and fight on the top of this table-land.

The advance on December 12th found Camp Bartow at Travelers Repose deserted, but Mayor D. H. Ross of the 52nd Virginian had been dispatched to that point with 106 men to form an ambuscade on the road between Durbin and Bartow.

When the Federals came up, Ross and his men fired on them and killed 10 and wounded a number of others. The Federals advanced in great force and Ross was forced to retreat. He reached Camp Baldwin that night.

Ambrose Bierce was with the Federals. He says they marched all day down Cheat Mountain and all night up Allegheny Mountain. That the firing at the foot of the mountain halted them for a time, but after the Confederates retreated they reached Travelers Rest. There they divided. About half of them marched down the road toward Greenbank and turned at the Uriah Heavener farm and climbed the road that is still used as a short cut between Saulsbury Run and Buffalo Run. The other half continued up the pike.

As the battle was scheduled to begin before day break those killed at Bartow were not buried but laid on the upper side of the road and covered with blankets. As the soldiers passed that way many of them stopped to see if they could recognize a friend among the dead.

The next day as they returned from the battle ground defeated and approached the place where the dead lay it seemed they had moved and cast aside their covering. But upon investigation they found a drove of hogs had been at the bodies and eaten the faces off the dead. The hogs were killed and the dead buried. "This scene is described in Iconoclastic Memories of the Civil War-Ambrose Bierce".

When the turnpike gets to within a mile of the top of this mountain, it makes a sharp turn to the south and from there it climbs gently to the top where it passes a church. The Federal army left the pike at this curve and climbed directly up the hillside hoping to get behind the camp. But there were pickets out and the camp was alarmed by their shots around 4 o'clock that morning. The Confederates marched several companies out to meet the Federals as they came at the top. The Federals waited in the edge of the forest until near daylight and then marched into the open field and then the firing became general.

The Confederate line swung back and forward, and at one stage of the battle their right flank was driven to take shelter in their log cabins. There was fighting all over the top until mid afternoon, The half of the army which had swung to the south and was advancing up the crest of Buffalo Ridge failed in its purpose of surprising the camp. On that side of the camp there were trenches prepared to guard both roads and there was also some good artillery.

These trenches were full of soldiers prepared for an emergency. However, when the Federals first appeared, Captain Anderson of the Lee Battery thought it was a band of pickets being driven in. He sprang upon the side of the trench and called to them to hurry up and get in to the trenches. He was instantly shot and killed.

Finally about mid afternoon a retreat was sounded and the Federal army made its way back to camp Cheat Mountain. The Confederates reported that 1,200 Confederates had repulsed an army of 5000 men. That it was a great battle and a great victory.

The Federals reported that they had 1,760 men and the Confederates had 2,500, and that it was a reconnaissance in force. J. P. Benjamin, Sec. of War, wrote that President Jefferson Davis having been informed of the valor of Col. Edward Johnson in repulsing a vastly superior force was much gratified at the news of success, and had made him a brigadier general.

The losses of the battle were: Federal-dead 20, wounded 107, missing 10, total 137.

Confederate- dead 20, wounded 98, missing 28, total 146. After this battle the troops went into winter quarters, and there was no more fighting on the Staunton and Parkersburg turnpike that winter.

From - W. Va. Blue Book 1928
By, Andrew Price.

According to the old timers who have heard relatives tell about their winter in camp on the Allegheny, they were about to starve.